

## CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

PACEM IN MARIBUS VII, HELD IN ALGIERS, ALGERIA,  
26-29 OCTOBER 1976

This latest convocation of Pacem in Maribus was in Algiers during 26-29 October 1976, jointly and concurrently with a Special Session of the Club of Rome. The common theme was 'A New International Order', of which a new Law of the Sea must, obviously, be an integral part. The common background paper was the recently published RIO (Reshaping the International Order) Report, drafted under the direction of Jan Tinbergen and Jan van Ettinger. This contains a chapter on Ocean Management that, in a way, exemplifies the issues involved in all other parts of the RIO Report: for science and technology, food, energy and raw materials, international trade, transnational enterprises, disarmament and arms control, and the restructuring of the U.N. system, are all involved in designing a rational system of ocean management, governed by a new Law of the Sea.

As a result of such natural interplay, many of the proposals developed for other parts of the Report could be incorporated experimentally in the Ocean Management chapter, which could be developed into a sort of model for the structure of the whole international order. Thanks to a special grant by the Minister for Development Cooperation of the Government of the Netherlands, the Ocean Management chapter was, in fact, enlarged into a full-length study, *The New International Economic Order and the Law of the Sea*, which served as a special background paper for Pacem in Maribus VII.

The Algiers conference was the first organizational effort towards integrating the ongoing work of the Law of the Sea into the wider context of building a new international order. The first day-and-a-half was occupied by a general discussion of the issues of such a new international order. The Law of the Sea was given special attention in this discussion through a *Message* from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr Kurt Waldheim, presented by his Special Representative to the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea, and through a comprehensive analysis of the issues of the Law of the Sea Conference by Ambassador Mohamed Bejaoui of Algeria.

There was, furthermore, a joint working session between Pacem in Maribus VII and the Club of Rome, on some aspects of the RIO chapter on Ocean Management, and finally a joint closing session, during which Dr Arvid Pardo, former Ambassador of Malta to the United Nations, reported on the work of Pacem in Maribus VII.

During four other working sessions Pacem in Maribus VII worked autonomously on problems of the Law of the Sea. It dealt with both basic (long-term) and burning (short-term) issues. The agenda were divided into four sets. Two of these were of a general nature: (1) an assessment of the results of the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea, and (2) the interaction between the Law of the Sea and a 'New International Economic Order'. The other two sets were of a more specific nature: (3) 'The Enterprise'—meaning issues related to the structure and functions of the operational organ of the International Seabed Authority that is to be established on the basis of the work of the First Committee of the Law of the Sea Conference, and (4) Mediterranean cooperation and development—a pilot study.

The detailed proceedings are being published by the University of Malta Press, Msida, Malta.

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THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND'S FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, ON 'THE FRAGILE EARTH: TOWARDS STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVAL', HELD AT THE ST FRANCIS HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, 28 NOVEMBER-1 DECEMBER 1976

The launching of the World Wildlife Fund's biggest-ever fund-raising campaign—10 million dollars to help conserve the rich resources of the seas—was the climax of their Fourth International Congress, held late last year in San Francisco. The campaign was announced to more than 700 people from 35 countries by Joint Director-General Charles de Haes, who unveiled the symbol depicting a Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), over the slogan 'The Seas Must Live'. The Humpback Whale represents the many marine species which are threatened by pollution, mismanagement, and overexploitation.

Later Sir Peter Scott, Chairman of the World Wildlife Fund, told a packed press conference: 'This is rightly the biggest campaign the World Wildlife Fund has undertaken because the threat to the seas, which play a vital role in our lives, is one of the most dangerous [that] we face. We want to harvest food from the seas to feed our exploding human population. But at the same time we pour poisonous industrial effluent into the estuaries and coastal regions, which are often the breeding and feeding grounds of the fish we catch. In many places now the fish are unfit to eat, and deposits of mercury, cadmium, and other heavy-metals, have already taken a human toll. Rich fisheries are being overexploited, using ever-more-efficient technology, and some have already been reduced below any real commercial importance. Attempts at international control continually founder on the rocks of national greed and intransigence. Oil has become one of the bases of our lives, but by careless handling we are letting it damage and destroy sea-life—killing sea-birds, fouling the shores, and suffocating marine organisms. Further lethal damage is done by chemicals such as DDT and PCBs. Just as on land, wild animals\* are an index of the health of the seas [where numerous animals] are being persecuted and decimated, and our shorelines are becoming sterile... concrete jungles instead of the natural link between land and sea. Let us remember that life began in the seas, from which our distant ancestors emerged to adapt themselves to terrestrial life. How could such an evolutionary process take place today?'

Sir Peter released the first stage of the action programme, which tackles the conservation of critical areas essential for the survival and productivity of food and commercial species, as well as of rare and threatened ones. He said the World Wildlife Fund would work for the establishment of an international system of sanctuaries for whales, dolphins, and porpoises. The sanctuaries would include protection of the calving lagoons used by the Grey Whale (*Eschrichtius gibbosus*) on the Pacific coast of Mexico, which are disturbed by tourists and threatened with development; a sanctuary for humpback whales off Hawaii; and for the Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), the greatest of all, one in the Gulf of St Lawrence.

For the great migrations of wading birds it is proposed to establish a 'green' route of protected estuaries and marshes, many of which are being polluted or reclaimed as their biological importance is not appreciated. Other projects involve conservation of marine otters on the coasts of Chile and Peru; of marine turtles throughout the tropical seas and especially on the shores of Brazil, India, Malaysia, and Pakistan; of coral reefs, which are frequently broken up for building materials, souvenirs, and

\* and, particularly, plants—the primary producers without which there would be no animals.—Ed.

jewellery; and of molluscs, mangroves, and seagrasses. It is of crucial importance that the proposed international Law of the Sea take conservation measures properly into account.

During the Congress, seminars reviewed problems and possible solutions in the fields of (human) Population, Economics, Natural Resource Management, Conservation Technology, Energy, and Wildlife. Dr Luc Hoffmann, WWF Executive Vice-President, summed up by saying: 'We are overusing our resources. We are overloading our systems, and, as a result, we are in a mess. Whatever we are going to do to reverse the trend it will get worse for at least the next 10 to 20 years. . . . The causes of the mess are the growth in human population as well as the growth in consumption—a very wasteful consumption indeed.'

The Preamble to the Congress Resolutions, after repeating the theme of 'The Fragile Earth: Towards Strategies for Survival', declared:

'It is recognized that the fundamental cause of the problems of the Earth can be traced to the growing pressure of human population on natural resources and that any satisfactory and durable solution can only be achieved by bringing human numbers into balance with the potential of the biosphere to support them. The present imbalance is leading to the dissipation of the capital of natural resources and often to its complete destruction in irreversible soil-loss, the extinction of the genetic resources of plants and animals, [and] destruction of the potential for production of the land and the oceans and of the self-cleansing capacity of air and water. The problem is accentuated by the over-prodigious use of resources by the more affluent parts of world society. It often finds its expression in social and political tensions. The Congress recognizes that there is no prospect for long-lasting conservation unless these processes are brought under control.'

The Congress affirms its belief in the following:

Natural resources must be used wisely, so that their potential to contribute to the sustained well-being of mankind may be maintained and enhanced.

This requires a development of natural resources which makes full use of the potential of these resources but at the same time recognizes the restraints that must be applied if their natural capital is not to be dissipated. Such development must strive to improve the quality of life for all peoples.

An essential element in any such development must be to maintain, as far as possible, the genetic resources of all wild organisms and adequate areas of communities of wild animals and plants, and of natural landscapes, to minister to the material and spiritual needs of present and future generations.

Such an image of the future requires that all men and women be made aware of their absolute dependence on the health of the natural world and especially that those responsible for decisions develop a sense of ecological statesmanship and that the coming generations learn to be sensitive to these fundamental issues.'

The resolutions covered a wide range of conservation problems in the world today and are addressed to international bodies, governments, and the general public. The subjects were the Danube delta in Romania; Doñana National Park in Spain; National Parks and threatened species in Angola; Endangered fauna in Chad; Lake Nakuru in Kenya; Forest destruction in Africa; Destruction of wildlife in Eastern Africa; Protection to natural areas in Australia; Rain-forest conservation in Papua New Guinea; Action to save the Californian Condor; National Parks and other protected areas in Amazonia; Ecological development of the tropical rain-forest in the Amazon basin; Depletion of porpoise stocks in the eastern tropical Pacific by the International Purse Seine Fleet; Conservation of whales; Protection of the Harp Seal (*Pagophilus groenlandicus*); Spear-fishing; The future of Palau Archipelago; The ratification, accession, and implementation, of international conventions; Trade in wildlife products not covered by the Washington Convention; Use of anti-

coagulant chemicals to control vampire bats (especially *Desmodus rotundus*); Support for youth conservation organizations; Funding of development projects; Conservation and saving of energy; and support for the Saudi Arabian proposal to levy a tax on oil to foster conservation.†

Copies of these resolutions can be obtained from the Information Department, World Wildlife Fund, 1110 Morges, Switzerland.

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† See the second editorial in on last issue (*Environmental Conservation*, Vol. 3, No. 4, p. 242, Winter 1976).—Ed.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FALCONRY AND CONSERVATION, HELD IN ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, 10-18 DECEMBER 1976

This Conference, the first of its kind in the Arab world, was convened at the instance of H. H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahayan, Ruler of Abu Dhabi and President of the United Arab Emirates, who is well known for his love of traditional Arab falconry as well as for his concern for conservation of the environment and human well-being in the countries of Asia.

The 150 or so foreign participants were invited *ad personam* for the contribution which each could make to discussion of the conference theme in the context of the science and culture of the ancient arts of falconry. Participants included curators of twenty-three museums which had lent priceless objects to an exhibition which provided the background and introduction to the Conference; scholars of Arabic and of letters from many countries of Europe and the Arab world who for the first three days of plenary sessions shed light on some of the 5,000 years of history behind the art as it is today; practical falconers from many countries in Europe, Asia, and the United States of America; and conservationists concerned with the status and future of birds of prey, care of falcons in captivity, captive breeding, and conservation of the environment as an essential adjunct to falconry and human existence.

The Conference was well prepared and supported with outstanding generosity and hospitality. No one was left in any doubt as to the real dedication of Sheikh Zayed to the well-being of the falcon and to the cultural scenario. Sheikh Zayed's personal views were set down in advance in a fine book prepared in English and Arabic for the enlightenment of participants. Another superbly-produced conference book provided an introduction in English and Arabic to many of the papers to be presented at the Conference and contained coloured reproductions of leading works of art in the exhibition.

The most notable impressions of the Conference were developed in the informal discussions of participants, and although there were no formal resolutions, a substantive paper of suggestions on conservation and falconry was put forward with unanimous support of falconers and conservationists alike. Falconry is the free flying of trained birds of prey at wild quarry, and both conservationists and falconers at the Conference deplored the pseudo-falconry which exploits birds of prey for public exhibition, or as pets. They also noted that most birds of prey in captivity throughout the world fall into these latter categories.

In the Arab countries falcons, mostly Saker and Peregrine Falcons (*Falco cherruq* and *F. peregrinus*, respectively), are taken on passage in autumn and released four months later at the end of the hunting season. These birds are regarded as on loan from Nature. Captive breeding is being tried on an experimental scale in Bahrain but it was thought that it would need very careful control by governments to prevent abuse, and that the time had come when falconers and breeders should be licensed.

The falcons seen in many private mews were judged by the many experts present to have been almost exclusively of the eastern races of Saker and Peregrine, and there was no evidence whatever for the stories that are current in the western European press of any trade in endangered species of falcons from the West.

There was great interest shown in supporting research on the Peregrine Falcon and Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*) in southern Asia, and it was noted that in both cases the only effective means of conserving them would be widespread conservation of their habitat on passage as well as in their wintering-grounds. It was felt that falconers and conservationists must work in harmony on such things whilst not losing sight of the value of wildlife conservation for its own sake.

The most important outcome of this Conference was undoubtedly the announcement in the closing remarks of the Chairman, Sheikh Sultan, of an international foundation to be established in Abu Dhabi for conservation and falconry.\* The Conference Steering Committee was asked to remain in being to realize this decision.

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\* See the note on page 42 of this issue.—Ed.

#### THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION, TO BE HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA, FROM 29 AUGUST TO 9 SEPTEMBER 1977

Arid lands cover more than one-third of the Earth's land surface and are inhabited by some 600 million people, living for the most part in poverty. They centre on desert regions, notably in Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, and Australia.

Desert conditions have been expanded by Man and climate, with Man contributing particularly through improper management of fragile ecosystems. The desertification problem came forcibly to international attention with the great Sahelian drought of 1968–73. This tragedy led the General Assembly of the United Nations to call for a world conference to combat desertification. In its Resolution 3337 (XXIX), of 17 December 1974, the United Nations General Assembly emphasized concerted international action to halt the spread of deserts, and, where possible, reverse it. Provisions of the General Assembly Resolution 3511 (XXX), of 15 December 1975, authorized the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to prepare for the conference to be held from 29 August to 9 September 1977, probably (as now confirmed) in Nairobi, Kenya.

A small Secretariat for the Conference has been established at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, and is responsible for the documents to be presented for discussion and adoption. Given the extensive awareness of the characteristics of the desertification problem, it was decided to prepare component reviews on four central themes around which the various aspects of the problem could be organized. These

themes are the following: climate and desertification, population, society and desertification, and ecological change and desertification together with technology and desertification.

The component reviews have been blended into one overview document, assessing all available information on desertification and its impact on the development process of countries that are affected. Another element in the accumulation of knowledge consists in the preparation of case-studies of six selected areas affected by desertification. These case-studies are being financed by UNDP and executed by UNESCO.

As a contribution to the Conference preparations, a number of Governments offered to prepare what have come to be called 'associated case-studies'. At the specific request of the United Nations General Assembly, maps are in preparation to show areas affected, or likely to be affected, by the desertification process. FAO has prepared a world map with the assistance of UNESCO and WMO. In cooperation with WMO, FAO is preparing a desertification map of Africa north of the Equator. The Secretariat of the Conference has been able to obtain more detailed maps of certain parts of the world. Maps are also being prepared, based on a climate-aridity index and on drought probability.

The principal document to be presented to the Conference is a World Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. This Plan is being prepared on the basis of the scientific knowledge that is being assembled in the reviews and the overview, the case-studies, the associated case-studies, and the maps. It will focus on action constituting a systematic and sustained attack on desertification. It will direct international cooperation to initiate and strengthen national programmes in countries that are affected—aimed at the rational use of natural resources for socio-economic development but avoiding environmental deterioration.

Successive drafts of the Plan are being elaborated in consultation with Governments, the United Nations family, and the scientific community. Consultations with Governments will be made through four regional meetings covering the arid and semi-arid areas of the Mediterranean basin and Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas. These meetings, which are being held during the first quarter of 1977, are intended to be the source of policy guidelines included in the Plan. Related to the Plan of Action is a set of feasibility studies to which considerable significance is attached, due to their cooperative nature and also to the action proposals which should emerge from them. These studies are directed towards determining the feasibility of transnational projects designed to halt the spread of deserts, placing emphasis on regional and international action.

It is also planned that a workshop on implementation of the Plan of Action will be held immediately after the Conference. Participants in this workshop will be Government representatives who are actually directing anti-desertification programmes.

Success of the Conference should be seen in terms of generating cooperative action by the world community to combat desertification. Many deserts lie in undeveloped parts of the world, and any action taken to halt their advance or to 'regreen' them should be viewed as an essential part of the whole process of economic and social development without environmental deterioration.

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TO BE HELD AT THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, NEAR BANGKOK, THAILAND, 21–26 FEBRUARY 1978

Developing countries today often have the option of far better allocation of their environmental resources than their counterparts in the developed countries. Water pollution control is one of those aspects where the developing countries have the potential of maximizing their social benefits for the present and future generations.

The lack of research facilities and resources has hampered the development of efficient and rational water-pollution control strategies and techniques. With their meagre resources, most developing countries have tried various innovations, modifications, or direct applications, of the western approach to the problem. Some countries have been successful, while others have been less fortunate in their water-pollution control programmes.

The purpose of this forthcoming conference is to provide a medium for exchange of experiences, ideas, and plans for water-pollution control, in developing countries. It is hoped that the conference will accelerate the wider application of successful techniques and modifications, and also minimize the trial-and-error period of less attractive techniques. The Conference will deal with the technical legislative, social, and economic, aspects of water-pollution control.

Papers are invited on the following topics:

1. River, estuary, and reservoir, quality management.
2. Models and techniques of resource allocation involving water-pollution control.
3. Methodology and techniques development, with assessment and updating of water-pollution control standards.
4. Water-pollution control technology for industries and municipalities.
5. Monitoring and laboratory techniques for analyzing and assessing water quality.
6. Management techniques for operator and personnel training.
7. Public health aspects of water-pollution control.
8. Integrated approaches to water and air pollution, and to solid-waste problems.
9. Energy and useful by-product recovery from wastewater.

Prospective speakers are requested to submit four copies of a 500-words abstract of their intended paper not later than 31 May 1977. Information for contributors is available upon request.

Preprints of the conference proceedings will be included in the US\$ 60.00 registration fee charged to participants. Paper-bound copies will be available to libraries and individuals at a cost of US\$ 35.50.

A total of some 100 papers are expected to be presented during the Conference. Negotiations are currently being carried out with the International Association of Water Pollution Research (IAWPR) for publication of selected papers in their journal *Progress in Water Technology*.

The Conference will be held at the AIT Centre located 42 km from Bangkok. Inexpensive hotel accommodation will be available in the Centre. Further information concerning the Conference may be obtained from the undersigned.

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SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE, ON 'GROWTH WITHOUT ECODISASTERS', TO BE HELD IN REYKJAVIK, ICELAND, 5–11 JUNE 1977

The background and objectives of this long-planned event were outlined in our Summer issue of last year (*Environmental Conservation*, 3(2), p. 154, 1976), when some of the expected principal participants were named. With the postponement indicated in our Autumn issue (p. 237), there have been a few changes of personnel, including the sad loss by death of H.E. Edvard Hambro but some eminent additions. It has now been decided finally to hold the Conference this coming 5–11 June in Reykjavik, Iceland—mainly in the well-appointed Hotel Loftleidir.

Participation in the Conference is by invitation, basically through a quorum of the International Steering Committee which consists of Mrs Elisabeth Mann Borgese, Professor Jean Dorst, Dr Erik Jensen, H.E. the Icelandic Ambassador or Chargé d'Affaires (*ex officio*), Professor Mohammed Kassas, Professor Viktor Abramovich Kovda, Dr Thomas Adeoye Lambo (Chairman), Dr Nedumangathu Kesava Panikkar, Professor Nicholas Polunin (Secretary-General and Vice-Chairman *pro tem.*), Dr Sidney Dillon Ripley, Mr Peter B. Stone, and Dr the Hon. Beatrice E. Willard. The invitations are issued by the undersigned on behalf of the sponsors, namely the host Government of Iceland and the fostering Foundation for Environmental Conservation. The Holcomb Research Institute, Indianapolis, Indiana, is U.S. co-sponsor. Apart from personal invitations, chosen international organizations are being invited to send not more than two suitably qualified delegates each, and it is hoped that, as on the former occasion in Finland, the host country will invite governments to send observers.

The Conference Patron is H.E. Geir Halgrímsson, Prime Minister of Iceland, the Scientific Patron is H.E. Professor Friedrich T. Wahlen, sometime President of Switzerland, and the president is Professor Linus Pauling, sole recipient of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1954 and of that for Peace in 1962, while Professor Gunnar G. Schram, of the Faculty of Law, University of Reykjavik, and Chairman of the Icelandic State Committee for the Environment, is Chairman of the Icelandic National Committee for the Conference. A special feature will be the first Baer-Huxley Memorial Lecture, to be given by Mr Maurice F. Strong on 'The International Community and the Environment'. It will follow a mid-conference excursion to Thingvellir, 'the world's oldest parliament', by invitation of the Icelandic Minister of Culture. There will be an official reception on the last evening, and some other ancillary events.

In connection with the main Conference, special workshops on timely topics, such as 'Effects of Human Populations-pressures on Health' and 'Is Iceland Polluted?' are under consideration but implementation may depend on further funding.

Continuation of the series is being planned through treatment of narrower themes, including 'Industry and Environmental Concerns' and 'After the Oil is Gone'. It is fully expected that, as before, the proceedings of this and further ICEFs will be published through leading publishers synchronously on both sides of the Atlantic.

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